

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Action dated December 24, 2004 (effective date reset to February 11, 2004). The claim amendments included herein are merely clarifying amendments and are not meant to change the intended scope of the claims. Thus, the amendments present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal, and they should be entered in due course. Moreover, the amendments are manifest, requiring only a cursory review by the Examiner, thereby providing additional ground for their entry.

Claims 1-37 were pending in the application. In the Final Action, claims 1-37 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 13, 14 and 26 have been amended. Claims 1-37 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 1-37 are in condition for allowance and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1, 3-14, 16-26 and 28-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Salazar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,802,467) in view of Grundvig et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,061,435) and further in view of JP 60241383 or Newlin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,636,211).

Claims 2, 15 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Salazar in view of Grundvig and further in view of JP 60241383 or Newlin as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Hill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,470,189).

Applicants submit that the independent claims (claims 1, 13, 14 and 26) are patentable over Salazar, Grundvig, JP 60241383, Newlin and Hill.

Applicants' invention as recited in the independent claims is directed to a system and method for enabling transmission and reception of an information signal to and from a home appliance via radio communication. Each of the claims recites that "said home appliance supports audio transmission or reception between said home appliance and a third device by way of said radio communication," and that "said third device is operable to control said home appliance by way of said radio communication."

Neither Salazar, Grundvig, JP 60241383, Newlin nor Hill discloses enabling transmission and reception of an information signal to and from a home appliance wherein the home appliance supports audio transmission or reception by radio communication between itself and a third device, whereby the third device is operable to control the appliance by way of said radio communication. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 1, 13, 14 and 26 are patentable over Salazar, Grundvig, JP 60241383, Newlin and Hill – taken either alone or in combination – on at least this basis.

Claims 2-12 depend on claim 1. Since claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 2-12 are believed to be patentable over the cited references based at least on their dependency on claim 1.

Claims 15-25 depend on claim 14. Since claim 14 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 15-25 are believed to be patentable over the cited references based at least on their dependency on claim 14.

Claims 27-37 depend on claim 26. Since claim 26 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 27-37 are believed to be patentable over the cited references based at least on their dependency on claim 26.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.


Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicants' undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By: 

Bruno Polito
Reg. No. 38,580
(212) 588-0800